Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: The Hon'ble Member knows it. May I know whether the Government is aware of the great troubles for getting this oil on account of the crowd, in one particular place?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: Yes. I am aware.

Mr. President: Arrangements have been made to distribute the kerosene not only in fair price shops but also in other places in order to avid over-crowding in one particular place.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: There is a lot of over-crowding. Is it not possible to go round and give each man the quantity he requires?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: That is also under consideration.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: May I know whether in the matter of distribution of oil, any particular criterion or principle has been adhered to in regard to rural and urban parts, or any discrimination, or preference has been shown to urban parts as compared with rural parts?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: That depends upon the requirements of the town or of the rural area. Now we are going to supply as much quantity as is available.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know how many per cent of the kerosene that we used to get in ordinary times, we are getting now from the company?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: The supply has not been uniform; it is somewhere about 75,000 gallons.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: My question is, how many gallons have we been getting ordinarily?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Unlimited supply.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: There was a definite supply given to the different States by the oil companies.

Mr. President: The supply of oil was once 50 per cent; then it was reduced to 40 per cent. That percentage can be easily ascertained tomorrow.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know whether the Government is aware that in certain parts of the Madras province, they have increased the quota?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: Yes.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Is there any possibility of getting some increase in this State?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: Yes, we are trying.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will the Government be pleased to consider in making the allotments, that the requirements of the rural areas are greater than the urban areas?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: That will depend upon the requirements of each locality.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: No discrimination should be shown between rural and urban areas.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: All possible requirements are taken into consideration. In a town where there is electricity, we reduce the quota.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether Government is going to treat a house in a town, and a hut in rural area on the same level? I put the question, so that the Government may know that some distinction has to be made.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)*: In that case, what will be the quantity allowed in the case of a house in a town and a mansion in a village?

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: The mansion should be given more.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Is there any discrimination now between rural and urban areas?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: We are giving as much as possible to the fair price shops in the rural areas.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, Sir, the number of gallons supplied?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: I want notice.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: May I know, Sir, how many tins of kerosene oil are in stock at present?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: About nine thousand millions.

68. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether there was a proposal to entrust the distribution of kerosene and sugar to the villagers with the respective Panchayats in the State;

(*b*) whether the Hon'ble Minister held conferences with the Panchayatdars in this connection;

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(c) whether there was any proceedings of the Government sanctioning this scheme;

(d) what was the reason to set aside the above scheme and to take up the present scheme of opening Fair Price Shops?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):*

(a), (b), (c) & (d) A proposal was submitted by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies for the distribution of kerosene oil and sugar to the villagers through certain non-official agencies among whom Panchayats were also included. The Minister called together some of the non-officials amongst whom some of the Panchayatdars were also included. The scheme with regard to sugar was sanctioned provisionally to be given a trial. Immediately afterwards the Government took up a bigger scheme of starting Fair Price Shops for the retail sale of rice. It was then thought that there was no necessity for two separate agencies working for the same purpose and so the work of distribution of kerosene and sugar was decided to be entrusted to the Fair Price Shops themselves.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Were not proceedings passed by Government sanctioning the scheme?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was the Minister consulted when it was changed?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* Yes.

POLITICAL MEETINGS—PARTICIPATION IN

69. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether Miss A. Padmini, M.A., who has recently been appointed as Assistant Lecturer of Hindi in the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, had presided or addressed in any of the political meetings or moved any resolution in any political or other meetings held at Trichur in connection with the recent Civil Disobedience Movement;

(b) if so, whether Government has received any assurance from her that she has changed her views in politics or whether she will refrain from subversive activities;

(c) whether she had any part in the recent student strikes in the Colleges and High Schools in the State?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):*

(a) Yes. She presided over a ladies' meeting at Trichur soon after the arrest of the Congress leaders to protest against the arrests and addressed the meeting. No resolutions were moved.

(b) No assurance has been demanded or given.

(c) She has not come to notice in connection with the students' strikes.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Was the meeting referred to a banned one?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I don't think there was a ban.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether Government have got a copy of her speech?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* No.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know whether Government got any communication from the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam that assurance might be taken from the party concerned that she would not take part in future meetings?

മിസ്സർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : സർ, ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ പ്രവൃത്തിയെ പ്രതിഷേധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു കൂടിയ ഒരു യോഗത്തിൽ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷം വഹിച്ച ഒരു സ്ത്രീയെ യാതൊരു അഷ്വറൻസും കൂടാതെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടസർവ്വീസിൽ എടുത്തതു ന്യായമാണോ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* He did not want Government to get any assurance.

It is not the intention of Government either to allay questions or to provoke them. But I must make this statement to clarify the position.

For a long time after the arrest of the Congress leaders this Government did not take any kind of drastic action and meetings were held. It is only at a certain stage that Government thought it necessary to ban public meetings. This was a meeting which was held before the ban came into operation. After enquiries had been made I heard that she just presided. She was the usual speaker who spoke nothing. She was just the President. She did not preside over a meeting where this was discussed. Government did not think there was any necessity to prohibit the appointment of people like her.

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